

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY PERSONNEL
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SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

October 4, 2011

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Robert spec.
1399*

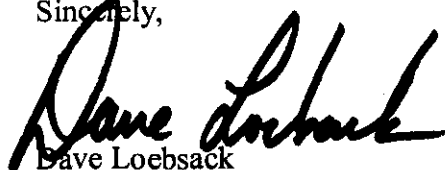
Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I have recently received correspondence from a number of my constituents who are concerned that they will soon lose access to free local television channels. The impetus for these calls is the proposed upcoming auctions of broadcast spectrum, which will be used to provide additional spectrum for wireless.

For this reason, I write to request that, should you develop a detailed proposal for broadcast spectrum auctions, you take the needs of consumers into account. Many of my constituents, particularly those who are low-income, rely solely on local television services for news and information. In the event of an emergency, access to local television is even more important in order for these consumers to stay up to date. It is imperative that these services be maintained for everyone, not just those who can afford to pay for additional channels.

Once again, I urge you to please assure that any decisions you make regarding upcoming broadcast spectrum auctions do not affect access to free local television. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dave Loebuck
Iowa's Second District

13 OCT 2011 RCUD



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

March 30, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter sharing your constituents' concerns that voluntary incentive auctions in the broadcast television spectrum might cause them to lose access to free local television channels. I appreciate that Congress recently granted the Commission authority to use this market-based solution to address the looming shortage of spectrum available for wireless broadband.

Incentive auctions will enable the market to determine, through a voluntary process, the amount of spectrum that can be repurposed for flexible uses like wireless broadband. Over-the-air television broadcasters may voluntarily contribute their spectrum or choose not to participate in the incentive auction. TV broadcaster participation in incentive auctions will be voluntary, and stations will not be forced off the air.

To optimize the value of the spectrum voluntarily contributed by broadcasters, the Commission will need to realign remaining TV stations in the band, so that the pieces fit in the most efficient way and the repurposed spectrum can be used efficiently to offer wireless broadband services. Each of the remaining stations will have just as much spectrum per station in the same band as it has today and will be compensated from incentive auction proceeds for its move to a new channel assignment.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski